WALKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WALKER COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX III, 201 S MAIN STREET LAFAYETTE, GEORGIA 30728

AGENDA

The following constitutes the agenda for the regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Walker County, Georgia to be held on June 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

- Invocation & Pledges
- Chairman Whitfield will Call to Order the Regular Meeting
- Clerk establishes a Quorum is present
- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Scheduled Meeting Held on May 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

- Public Comment
- New Business

No Items for Action at this time

- Commissioner Comments
- Executive Session (if necessary)
- Adjourn

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - Thursday, June 22, 2023



Walker County Governmental Authority 101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445 LaFayette, GA 30728 706-638-1437

Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 25, 2023 7:00 PM

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Shannon Whitfield called to order the Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting held at Annex III, 201 S. Main Street, LaFayette, Georgia at 7:00 PM on May 25, 2023.

II. Attendees:

The following were present: Chairman Whitfield, Commissioner Robert Blakemore, Commissioner Mark Askew, Commissioner Brian Hart, Commissioner Robert Stultz, Legal and Policy Director David Gottlieb, Public Relations Director Joe Legge and Board Clerk Whitney Summey. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Blakemore made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Askew, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried to approve the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Stultz made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting held May 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hart, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion was approved.

V. Public Hearing:

- I. Chairman Whitfield asked if anyone would like to speak on the request from Elite Air HVAC and maintenance for a rezone from R-3 to C-1 for property located at 524B Mission Ridge Road, Rossville, GA 30741, tax map and parcel number 0-140-009. Aaron Knight said he is one of the owners of the company. He brought a picture of the types of storage units they are wanting to build on the property. He shared the image on his phone with the Board and stated the buildings would be site built.
- II. Chairman Whitfield asked if anyone would like to speak on the request from Ada Jackson for a variance for less than five acres in a A-1 zone for property located at 5675 Chamberlain Road, LaFayette, GA 30728, tax map and parcel number 0-449-005. Brain Jackson said he wants to put a mobile home on his parents property to be able to help care for them since they are getting older. He said the land is zoned agriculture but is not usable for agricultural purposes. He said the property is very steep and hilly and the soil is not usable for growing anything. He said they did not know they needed a variance and had already put a deposit down on a mobile home. Commissioner Hart asked the size of the property and how many residences were there now. Mr. Jackson said they have 7.4 acres and his brother owns an additional acre behind it. He said there is one residence on the 7.4 acres.

VI. Public Comment:

I. Jim Pope asked Commissioner Stultz to explain his opinion of the \$8,000.00 spent with the secondary council and how it benefited Walker County citizens. Commissioner Stultz gave details of the Gateway Project in Rossville and said it was good to have Ken Jarrard's opinion, as well as County Attorney David Gottlieb. He said the Board asked for a second opinion to keep the county from having another lawsuit like the situation with Erlanger. Mr. Pope asked if there were any attorneys in Walker County that would be suitable for a second opinion. Commissioner Stultz said the Jarrard Law Firm works with 13 other counties in Georgia and specializes in county government. He said there is no cost to the county unless they render services.

VII. Ceremonial:

I. Deputy Chief Nathan Farrow gave details on a breech delivery on February 5th. He congratulated Lt. Dan Mims and firefighter Dylan Stansell and the patients on a successful delivery. He presented Lt. Mims and Stansell with a Life Saving Commendation Award and thanked them for their service. Chief Blake Hodge said dispatcher Holly Weber took the call and stayed on the line with the family. He said dispatch does not receive enough credit for the amazing work they do. He presented Holly Weber with a Life Saving Award and thanked her for service.

VIII. New Business:

- I. Chairman Whitfield read Resolution R-023-23 to award a contract for local maintenance asphalt resurfacing project 2023-01. He said all of the details of the bid are in the packet and Talley Construction proposed the lowest overall bid. Commissioner Blakemore made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Askew, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- II. Chairman Whitfield asked if there was any discussion from the Board on the request from Elite Air HVAC and Maintenance for a rezone from R-3 to C-1 for property located at 524B Mission Ridge Road, Rossville, GA 30741, tax map and parcel number 0-140-009. Planning Director Jon Pursley said the Planning Commission did not see photos of the proposed buildings. He said they recommended approval with the condition of the storage buildings not being trailers or shipping containers. He said having site built units would not go against their conditions. Commissioner Blakemore made a motion to approve with the Planning Commissions conditions, seconded by Commissioner Stultz, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- III. Chairman Whitfield asked if there was any discussion from the Board on the request from Ada Jacketon for a variance for less than five acres in a A-1 zone for property located at 5675 Chamberlain Road, LaFayette, GA 30728, tax map and parcel number 0-449-005. Planning Director Jon Pursley said the Planning Commission recommended denial because of the structure already on the property. He said the property is not suitable for agricultural purposes and said the owners had mentioned putting in another driveway for the mobile home. Commissioner Hart said he is against the variance because this would allow for three homes on an A-1 property and will hurt the growth of agriculture property that is already in high demand in the area. Commissioner Askew said he agreed, but the property is improperly zoned and not suitable for agriculture use. Commissioner Blakemore said the property is only suitable to live on. Commissioner Blakemore made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Askew, 3 ayes and 1 nays, motion carried to approve.
- IV. Chairman Whitfield said the Coats American Building was donated to the County around 2004 or 2005 and they are working on plans for additional environmental cleanup. Commissioner Stultz asked how much money has been spent since the County received the property. Chairman Whitfield said he is not sure on an exact number but it is into six figures since he has been in office and the prior administration did some cleanup as well. Commissioner Blakemore said the property still has a long way to go with cleanup. He said he would like to see the property in the hands of investors and back on the tax roll. Chairman Whitfield said they are waiting on a reply from the EPA for recommendations on the next steps for cleanup since the fire last year. Commissioner Askew said the County is blessed it has not had more incidents since the fires and he would like to see the property sold. He asked for more information and options to be brought back before the Board. Commissioner Hart said he would like to surplus the property and looks forward to working with the Mayor of Rossville to get this completed.
- V. Chairman Whitfield asked Landfill Manager Paine Gily to speak about purchase order 2023-00001337 for \$160,945.00 for a Caterpillar 308 mini hydraulic excavator for the Walker County Landfill. Paine Gily said this piece will allow the landfill to work on the slopes, ditched, and help improve stormwater flow. He reviewed the attachments and features of the piece and said they were able to see a demo of it. He said they are purchasing the extended warranty making the total warranty 60 months and 5,000 hours. Chairman Whitfield said Yancy is providing government pricing and there are SPLOST funds available for the purchase. Commissioner Hart said there is a lot of equipment that is not being used and no longer serves a purpose that he would like to see surplused. Mr. Gily said they are reviewing all of the equipment and making a list of what to send to auction. Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Stultz, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Blakemore said there is a big grant for recreation coming to the north end and he appreciates everyone's hard work getting the grant. He said he is excited to see the funds put to use and the outcome for the citizens.

Commissioner Askew thanked everyone for coming out and being involved. He said Memorial Day weekend is the start of summer and said he hopes everyone has a great and safe summer.

Commissioner Hart thanked the firefighters for all of their great work. He gave information on the Honey Bee Festival coming up in LaFayette and encouraged everyone to come out.

Commissioner Stultz thanked all of the county employees and emergency services personnel for their hard work. He commended the building officials and said he has received great compliments on them recently. He asked Chairmen Whitfield for an update on the Hinkle Fire Station.

Chairman Whitfield said they received a 2.2 million dollar grant for the Rossville Recreation Center and a \$100,000.00 for an outdoor learning lab at Ridgeland High School. He said the final

approval tonight for road paving will begin very soon. He said the fiber and broadband project with Windstream is moving forward and they hope to have everything finished by the end of 2024. He said the Hinkle fire station project is back on the SPLOST project list and they are working to get a complete redesign of the station. He said Annex II should be finished within the next month. He said primer is being applied to the west wall and an artist is set to begin a mural project next Tuesday as long as weather permits. Tire Amnesty Day had a great turnout and they hoped to have another event in October or November. He said Clarence Johnson with the Public Works department is doing great after his accident and he asked everyone to keep him in their prayers.

X. Executive Session:

Chairman Whitfield made a motion to go into executive session for personnel and litigation, seconded by Commissioner Askew, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried. Executive session began at 7:54 PM. Chairman Whitfield called the regular meeting back to order at 8:21 PM with no further action from the executive session.

IV. Adjournment:

Commissioner Blakemore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Stultz seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Shannon K. Whitfield Chairman/CEO Walker County Georgia	Date	

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Board Clerk, Whitney Summey

Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

Walker County Annex III

May 25, 2023

7:00 PM

Roll Call	Present/Absent
Commissioner Blakemore	Present
Commissioner Askew	Present
Chairman Whitfield	Present
Commissioner Hart	Present
Commissioner Stultz	Present



Sign In Sheet

Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 25, 2023

7:00 PM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
Brian + Stevi Jackson	38 Fitzpatrick Dr. Lafayett	CGa 3072
PAWE GRY	CANSFILL	
Cenju Leem	ER.	
Lath Dons	Road	
Son Puister	2337 E Armechee R. L. La	2 /
2 im Pope	2337 E Armuchee R.b. La	fagette
Me Keller	Logatic Cat	
	,	